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SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 9, 2003

FROM: Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: Red Imported Fire Ant Program Update.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the attached report regarding the terminated Red Imported Fire Ant Program.

BACKGROUND: On November 4, 2003, agenda item 3.24, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Agricultural Commissioner provide costs associated with establishing a minimal program to maintain the efforts and achievements of the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) program. A cost projection covering the period January 2004 through June 2004 is attached.

The RIFA program was developed in October 1999, as a result of SB 204 (Lewis). Over the four-year period, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allocated \$1.16 million to Riverside County for the control and/or suppression program in western Riverside County. In addition, the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (CVMVCD) received \$4.76 million through a separate contract with CDFA, for control of the pest in the Coachella Valley. Due to budget reductions, the State terminated these agreements in October 2003. Riverside County's 2004 Legislative Platform includes a position of support for continued State funding for eradication of the Red Imported Fire Ant. To date, the CDFA has not released information on potential funding for a RIFA program in FY 2004/05.

Departmental Concurrence

John Snyder, Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dept't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.24 11/04/03 | District: | Agenda Number:

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JOHN SNYDER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

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Red Imported Fire Ant
Funding Status Report
For Riverside County

December 9, 2003

As a result of legislation approved in October 1999 (SB204, Lewis), a five-year program was established to control and eradicate Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) in Southern California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) approved contracts with a number of agencies for local control and eradication programs. Within Riverside County, CDFA approved two separate contracts. The County Agricultural Commissioner's office was awarded a contract for a RIFA program for the western portion of the county for \$1.16 million over five years. The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (CVMVCD) was awarded a separate five year, \$4.76 million contract for a RIFA program in the Coachella Valley because the CVMVCD has the local infrastructure and pest control expertise to adequately service the Coachella Valley.

Contracts were awarded based on the projected workload of the know RIFA infestations at that time, with the bulk of the available contract funds going to the Vector Districts in Orange County and in the Coachella Valley. Most recently, in late September of this year, each of the contracting agencies was officially notified that CDFA would prematurely terminate the RIFA contracts effective October 19, 2003.

It should be noted that the potential success of RIFA eradication efforts on the west end of the county look very promising due to the limited scope of infested sites and due to general environmental conditions of those sites. However, due to desert conditions and frequent irrigation schedules on infested golf courses, the situation in the Coachella Valley is more severe and would ultimately require considerably more resources.

The information on the following page represents an estimate of what it would take to maintain a minimal eradication program within Riverside County, and is based on a six month period from 1/1/04 to 6/30/04.

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) – Minimal Program
January 1, 2004 – June 30, 2004

Western Riverside County - Agricultural Commissioner's Office

<u>Costs</u>		<u>Staffing</u>
Salary/Benefits	- \$80,391	¼ Supv. – Coordinator
Transportation	- 9,573	1 Ag. Std. Invest. – Treatment/Outreach
Supplies	- 6,300	2 Ag. Insp. – Survey
Total Costs	- \$96,264	Total Staff – 3 ¼ positions

***Coachella Valley - Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District**

<u>Costs</u>		<u>Staffing</u>
Salary/Benefits/OH	- \$147,002	1 Supv. – Coordinator
Transportation	- 4,000	1 Office Asst.
Supplies	- 34,100	3 Premise Insp. – Treatment/Outreach/Survey
Total Costs	- \$185,102	Total Staff – 5 positions

Costs

Totals – Countywide

Salary/Benefits/OH	- \$227,393
Transportation	- 13,573
Supplies	- 40,400
Total Costs	- \$281,366

*Information provided by the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District